

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 77-78 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-30 (canceled).

31. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of acetic acid, methyl acetate or both acetic acid and methyl acetate in a liquid phase reaction medium comprising isomerization of methyl formate and optionally carbonylation of methanol, in the presence of water, a solvent, a homogeneous catalyst system comprising iridium and a halogen-containing promoter, and carbon monoxide, wherein said catalyst system also comprises platinum.

32. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein said process is a process of isomerization of methyl formate wherein a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between $0.1 \cdot 10^5$ Pa and $25 \cdot 10^5$ Pa is maintained throughout the reaction.

33. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31 wherein said reaction comprises a simultaneous methanol carbonylation reaction and a methyl formate isomerization reaction, wherein said reaction is carried out under a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between $0.1 \cdot 10^5$ Pa and $25 \cdot 10^5$ Pa throughout the reaction.

34. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the platinum is introduced into said catalyst system in the form of metallic platinum, a platinum salt or an oxide.

35. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the platinum is introduced into the catalyst system in the form of a coordination complex.

36. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 35, wherein the coordination complex is a coordination complex of platinum with at least one ligand selected from the group consisting of carbon monoxide, a carbon monoxide/halogen combination, organonitrogen compounds and organophosphorus compounds.

37. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 35, wherein said complex is $[\text{PtI}_2(\text{CO})]_2$.

38. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 34, wherein the platinum concentration of at least 4 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of iridium to platinum of between 2 and 5 are maintained.

39. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 35, wherein a platinum content of at least 1 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of iridium to platinum of between 1 and 5 are maintained.

40. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein said catalyst system also contains rhodium.

41. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 40, wherein rhodium and iridium are maintained in an atomic ratio of rhodium to iridium of between 0.01 and 99.

42. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim ~~41~~ 40, wherein a concentration of iridium and rhodium in the reaction medium of between 0.1 and 100 mmol/l is maintained.

43. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim ~~41~~ 40, wherein the platinum is introduced into the catalyst system in the form of metallic platinum, a platinum salt or a platinum oxide, and a platinum content of at least 4 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of (iridium + rhodium) to platinum of between 2 and 5 are maintained.

44. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 40, wherein the platinum is introduced in the form of a

coordination complex, and a platinum content of at least 1 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of (iridium + rhodium) to platinum of between 1 and 5 are maintained.

45. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein a concentration of iridium in the reaction medium of between 0.1 and 100 mmol/l is maintained.

46. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 45, wherein a concentration of iridium in the reaction medium of between 1 and 20 mmol/l, is maintained.

47. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31 which is carried out in the presence of a water content less than or equal to 14% by weight of the reaction medium.

48. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 47, which is carried out in the presence of a water content less than or equal to 10% by weight of the reaction medium.

49. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim ~~31~~ 48, in which the reaction medium contains water in an amount of less than 5% by weight.

50. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the reaction medium contains water in an amount of less than 2% by weight.

51. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein said halogen-containing promoter comprises an elemental halogen or a halogen in a compound with hydrogen or a methyl or acetyl radical.

52. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 51, wherein said halogen-containing promoter is methyl iodide.

53. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, which is carried out in the presence of a halogen-containing promoter in an amount of less than or equal to 20% by weight of the reaction medium.

54. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 53, which is carried out in the presence of a halogen-containing promoter in an amount of less than or equal to 15% by weight of the reaction medium.

55. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, which is carried out in the presence of an ester in an amount of less than 40% by weight of the reaction medium.

56. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 31, which is carried out in the presence of an ester in an amount of less than 30% by weight of the reaction medium.

57. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein iodides are introduced into the reaction medium in an amount sufficient to maintain an atomic ratio of soluble iodides introduced into the reaction medium to iridium of less than 10.

58. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, which is carried out continuously.

59. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of acetic acid, methyl acetate or both acetic acid and methyl acetate by a reaction of carbonylation of methanol in a liquid phase reaction medium in the presence of water, a solvent, a homogeneous catalyst system comprising iridium and a halogen-containing promoter, and carbon monoxide, wherein said catalyst system also comprises platinum.

60. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, wherein a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between $0.1 \cdot 10^5$ Pa and $200 \cdot 10^5$ Pa is maintained throughout the reaction.

61. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, wherein the platinum is introduced into said catalyst system in the form of metallic platinum, a platinum salt or an oxide.

62. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, wherein the platinum is introduced into the catalyst system in the form of a coordination complex.

63. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 62, wherein the coordination complex is a coordination complex of platinum with at least one ligand selected from the group consisting of carbon monoxide, a carbon monoxide/halogen combination, organonitrogen compounds and organophosphorus compounds.

64. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 62, wherein said complex is $[\text{PtI}_2(\text{CO})]_2$.

65. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 61, wherein the platinum concentration of at least 4 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of iridium to platinum of between 2 and 5 are maintained.

66. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 62, wherein a platinum content of at least 1 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of iridium to platinum of between 1 and 5 are maintained.

67. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, wherein said catalyst system also contains rhodium.

68. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 67, wherein rhodium and iridium are maintained in an atomic ratio of rhodium to iridium of between 0.01 and 99.

69. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 68, wherein a concentration of iridium and rhodium in the reaction medium of between 0.1 and 100 mmol/l is maintained.

70. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 68, wherein the platinum is introduced into the catalyst system in the form of metallic platinum, a platinum salt or a platinum oxide, and a platinum content of at least 4 mmol/l of

reaction medium and an atomic ratio of (iridium + rhodium) to platinum of between 2 and 5 are maintained.

71. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 67, wherein the platinum is introduced in the form of a coordination complex, and a platinum content of at least 1 mmol/l of reaction medium and an atomic ratio of (iridium + rhodium) to platinum of between 1 and 5 are maintained.

72. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, wherein a concentration of iridium in the reaction medium of between 0.1 and 100 mmol/l is maintained.

73. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 72, wherein a concentration of iridium in the reaction medium of between 1 and 20 mmol/l, is maintained.

74. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, which is carried out in the presence of a water content less than or equal to 14% by weight of the reaction medium.

75. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 74, which is carried out in the presence of a water content less than or equal to 10% by weight of the reaction medium.

76. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 74, wherein the reaction medium contains water in an amount of between 2 and 8% by weight.

Claims 77-78 (canceled).

79. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, wherein said halogen-containing promoter comprises an elemental halogen or a halogen in a compound with hydrogen or a methyl or acetyl radical.

80. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 79, wherein said halogen-containing promoter is methyl iodide.

81. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, which is carried out in the presence of a halogen-

containing promoter in an amount of less than or equal to 20% by weight of the reaction medium.

82. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 81, which is carried out in the presence of a halogen-containing promoter in an amount of less than or equal to 15% by weight of the reaction medium.

83. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, which is carried out in the presence of an ester in an amount of less than 40% by weight of the reaction medium.

84. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 59 83, which is carried out in the presence of an ester in an amount of less than 30% by weight of the reaction medium.

85. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, wherein iodides are introduced into the reaction medium in an amount sufficient to maintain an atomic ratio of soluble iodides introduced into the reaction medium to iridium of less than 10.

86. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 59, which is carried out continuously.